

REMARKS

I. Claim Amendments

Applicants cancelled claims 4, 9, 12, 13, 16, 20, 25, 26 and 31-32, without prejudice. Applicants also amended several claims primarily to improve their form and conform them to U.S. practice. The amendments do not introduce new matter insofar as they are supported by the specification, considered as a whole. For example, the amendments of claims 1 and 5 are supported by the specification at least at page 5, lines 20-29, the amendments of claim 10 at least at page 10, lines 28-29, of claim 19 at page 16, lines 28-32, and page 17, lines 26-27. The amendments of claim 21 are supported *inter alia*, by the specification at page 12, lines 23-28 and page 13, lines 24-30.

II. Request for Allowance

Applicants request an indication of allowance of all claims. If the Examiner is of the opinion that any of the claims are not patentable, Applicants would appreciate the courtesy of a telephone call to the undersigned counsel to resolve such issues in an expeditious manner.

Authorization is hereby granted to charge or credit the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 50-0206 for any fees or overpayments related to the entry of this Amendment.

APPLN. NO. TBA
PRELIMINARY AMDT. DATED DECEMBER 30, 2005
ATTORNEY DOCKET No.: 59486.000008

Respectfully submitted,

HUNTON & WILLIAMS LLP

By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stanislaus Aksman', written over a horizontal line.

Stanislaus Aksman
Registration No 28,562

Dated: December 30, 2005

Hunton & Williams LLP
Intellectual Property Department
1900 K Street, N.W.
Suite 1200
Washington, DC 20006-1109
(202) 955-1500 (telephone)
(202) 778-2201 (facsimile)

SA:sac